

Shot Seen

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Though there have been stories over the years that Trask had arrived late for his flight out to the "Andrea Doria" and arrived at the scene in the nick of time out of sheer luck, Trask maintains that he was one of the first photographers on Nantucket. "Lady Fortuna," or her cousin "Serendipity" may have had something to do with it in the end, but Harry Trask put in a full day's work in getting that picture.

"I sat in Nantucket from 4:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. trying to bum rides with different aircrafts," Trask said. Because no provisions had been made to fly him any farther, he and John Dowd, a reporter on the Traveler's midnight shift, sat in the airport and watched helplessly as reporters from the *Record American*, the *Boston Globe*, the *New York News* and the *New Bedford Standard Times* flew out and back in planes their papers had chartered.

They all came back horrified at the awful scene they had witnessed — at the "Stockholm's" ripped bow and at the crippled abandoned "Andrea Doria." "I felt stupid," Trask recalled. "I just couldn't get out there."

Meanwhile Dowd kept calling the newspaper in an attempt to get an aircraft and finally made a connection with a pilot from Martha's Vineyard. The "Beachcraft Bonanza", a single-engine plane with low wings and a V-shaped tail, finally made that fateful flight.

Trask, who suffered from terrible bouts of air sickness whenever he flew, was especially leery of this plane. A few weeks before, he explained, he had met a person who had suffered a broken back when the same model airplane had crashed. "If we had trouble we were in the drink," he grimly reflected on the trip.

When the Bonanza's pilot arrived in Nantucket, he was eager to leave right away. Something told Trask to stave off the flight for a half an hour. "It was though it was written," Trask said, that he should wait that time and photograph the victims returning to Nantucket by rescue helicopters.

They finally took off around 9:30 a.m.

"I made a tactical error from the start," Trask said. "I sat up front with the pilot and at that time I weighed around 200 pounds," he said and explained that between fighting nausea and maneuvering his large speed-graphic press camera things were mighty uncomfortable.

Had he sat in the back seat he would have had more room to shoot out of the window. Yet somehow he managed to fend off the air sickness from sheer excitement, and perhaps from a premonition that what he was about to see would go down in history. But, he confessed, motioning to his chin, "It was about up to here."

When they arrived at the scene, there was a lot of traffic still lingering around the listing "Andrea Doria" and Trask decided to get the business of shooting the "Stockholm" out of the way. He shot three or four pictures of the Swedish ship and then directed the pilot over to the "Andrea Doria."

Because the wings of the plane were so low slung, Trask was forced to direct the pilot to flip the plane sideways every time he was about to take a picture so that the wing wouldn't be included in the shot.

"We were 75 feet over the water and I told him to fly in tight circles around the ship. I noticed the smokestack seemed closer to the water and within nine or 10 minutes it was all over. I took a total of about 17 pictures. All that was left was one lifeboat turned upside down and some bubbles."

Today's motorized camera's might have been able to capture the whole event on many rolls of film. Trask recorded the sinking ship with the cumbersome speed-graphic which required manual insertion of film every time a picture was shot.)

"I knew I had some good pictures," was all Trask said of his thoughts after the "Andrea Doria" went down. He flew back to Logan, made radio connection with the paper, and took a cab back to the office. The photo department was like New Year's Eve, he said, as he was greeted by an eager staff and the publisher.

He refrained from saying

how the photos would come out until he emerged from the darkroom, where he took greater than usual precautions in developing the film.

"They're terrific!" he announced. He had captured on celluloid, in black and white, a sequence of photographs the *Herald Traveler* entitled "The Death of a Sea Queen." Within hours the Associated Press service had the photos and they were seen around the world that night. Those photographs and especially the key picture of the plunging ship, won Trask the Pulitzer Prize the next May.

The winning of the Pulitzer, Trask said, should be put into correct perspective. There is a considerable amount of luck involved in being in the right place at the right time.

"I was there," he said.

Practically speaking, however, Trask realized that he had a good career ahead of him. "I kept thinking," he recalled, "What an opportunity. Maybe it might happen again."

In 1957 he sought employment in New York, but came home without a job. "Thank God," he said. He is glad he stayed with the Traveler in Massachusetts, and at his lovely home on Bancroft Street where he proceeded to raise a family of seven with his wife Joan.

What else did he do? Kept on taking pictures for the paper until 1972, that's what. And what type of a photographer did he evolve into? "I was a good technician," Trask answered. "I was a guy on the staff."

That is, until he changed careers several years ago, when he became a teacher. He is now in his fifth year of teaching photography at the Jeremiah Burke High School in Dorchester.

"I was a late bloomer," Trask said. "I didn't start college until I was 35." He received a B.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts in Boston and later received a Master's Degree in Education from Bridgewater State College.

Many of the students Trask teaches have learning disabilities to some extent, he said. It is a rewarding job, he said, because photography helps them because they're interested. He also praised the young

staff at the school and their knowledge of "what's going on." "The school's on the right side of Boston," Trask added, so the commute he takes up Route 3A every day doesn't consume too much gas or patience.

As for the press — well, the *Herald American* still receives Trask's allegiance. He thinks it's "going downhill" and becoming a feature newspaper, but it's still his paper. His advice to young people aspiring to be big newspaper photographers or journalists, is to start anywhere on any little publication.

"Nowadays you have to do something spectacular to get a job," Trask noted. He himself eased his way onto the Traveler after working eight years, first as a mail clerk and then in the darkroom, and waiting around for someone to retire or die.

As for photography, Trask wants "as little as possible" to do with it. He makes exceptions for family and friends but he doesn't want to

take the time it requires. There is too much competition of the cutthroat variety in the photography field today, he feels.

The fading glossy of the doomed "Andrea Doria" and its accompanying Pulitzer Prize still grace the walls of the Trask's living room. The Graflex Diamond Award pendant awarded him for the same picture hung from his son's watch chain at the High School Prom a few weeks ago. The Boston Press Photographers Association and the Associated Press Managing Editor awards among others Trask received in 1957 are all reminders that once time and circumstance were on his side.

And as for the "Andrea Doria," she still lies beneath the ocean. Perhaps she is searching for the lost island of Atlantis.

"Way down beneath the ocean, where she may be, she may be. Way down beneath the ocean, where I long to be, she may be."

—Donovan

Three Police Cruisers In Five Town Chase

Three police cruisers participated in a five town chase of a blue Porsche late Tuesday after the vehicle was spotted speeding on Jerusalem Road.

The chase originated when Officer David Pomerico attempted to stop the vehicle, occupied by two males, for speeding. It was behind another vehicle which would not stop and the driver lost control and bounced off a couple of poles while driving an estimated 80 miles an hour, said Pomerico.

Traveling the back roads the car went through parts of Hull and Hingham in West Corner, down Cedar Street to King

Street to Route 3A; back onto King Street to Beechwood Street, where it ran up over part of the ball field. The chase continued into Scituate and Norwell where the driver got away.

Officers Brian Cogill and Richard Abbadessa attempted to cut the car off on Route 3A, said Pomerico. It was an early model blue Porsche with primer spots, he said. The license number was being checked with registry officials at press time.

"For the grace of God, non one was hurt, no children were run down," commented Officer Pomerico.

Cohasset Move-up Plan

The Cohasset Move-up Plan is designed to introduce students to teachers and classes for the following school year. Its intent is to relieve youngsters of anxieties in June rather than September as students become aware of their new assignments, new teachers, and/or new school building.

The plan is particularly appropriate for kindergarten

students since June 15 becomes somewhat like the first day of their school year. It has special significance as well for current third and sixth graders as they are introduced to new school settings for the next academic year. Secondary students grades 7-11 will be taking final examinations and because of their familiarity with building and staff will not be included in orientation programs.

Planning Board Approves Application

With a favorable report from the Planning Board and no citizen objection the Board of Appeals approved application of Frederick Higgins for a special permit to add a two story addition 12 by 24 feet and new porch at 251 King St. The property did not comply with the front yard setback under by-laws.

The Board also has denied

the application of Edward Nyren for a variance from the 30-foot setback to 20 feet at 51 Jerusalem Road. Nyren proposed the variance in order to make use of a retaining wall to build up the front yard and permit installation of a septic system.

A number of citizens present opposed the application because of traffic problems in the area

Rotary Presents \$5500 In Awards

The Cohasset Rotary Club scholarship awards presented on class night included \$5500 in scholarships to nine recipients of the graduating class of the high school.

Being a club of only 24 members, this is an outstanding achievement.

Recipients of the scholarships were: David P. Gunville \$500, Mark Young \$1000,

Brian Conlan \$500, Joselyn A. Kennedy \$500, Gerda M. Cahill \$750, Barbara A. Curelli \$500, William E. Roy \$500, Matthew J. Salerno \$500 and Andrew N. Trask \$750.

'Children's Art Week'

"Children's Art Week" sponsored by the South Shore Art Center promises to be a creative fun-filled activity for children between the ages of 7-12 every morning from 10:30 to 12 noon June 25 through June 29.

Enrollments are now being taken at the Center Office. Classes will take place in Cohasset.

Teacher Pamela Hoss will guide the children in exploring a variety of media including painting and sketching out-

doors when weather permits. Ms. Hoss received her BFA from SMU and has taught art in the Rockland High School. She has exhibited at the Providence Art Club, Brockton Art Center and at Roger Williams College.